

### **3.5.3 Burley/North Cassia Fire Protection District**

This northernmost FPD covers a total of 198,971 acres including 10,091 acres of BLM land, 184,352 acres of private land, and 4,526 acres of State land (Table 6). Much of the private land is presently agricultural land, but housing, agricultural related industries and produce shipping points have developed along the EIRR and Highway 30. The number of approved subdivisions in this FPD has increased rapidly during the last decade both east and west of Burley, however, farm based center pivot irrigation still control major portions of land. The present expansion of subdivisions appears to be moving more rapidly east and north along the Snake River than to the west of Burley. Over time the approved subdivisions have become so linked together that it is difficult to tell where one subdivision stops and another begins.

Heavy fuel loads exist throughout this FPD (Figure 9) and are a combination of native and exotic vegetation, namely cheatgrass brome. These fuels can readily carry fire once ignition occurs. Some housing has been built adjacent to or inside these fuel beds with minimum effort at developing defensive space (Figure 10). As a result of the expanses of these fuels, large fires are probable and facilities are going to be threatened during any incident. With the movement from rectangular to circular fields as a result of center pivot irrigation, corners and stretches along roads are not being managed and could provide a pathway for fire from patches of natural fuels on windy days. To compound the fuel problem further older homes and farm buildings are being abandoned and surrounding areas are returning to heavy stands of grass and shrubs that are curing out earlier in the fire season because of lower moisture.

There is little surface water in this FPD except in the Snake River and irrigation canals, which can be used when access has been developed. The departments do have the ability to hook into irrigation equipment to refill fire fighting equipment during the irrigation months, but outside of the irrigation system water must be hauled from the fire stations or community fire hydrant systems where present.



**Figure 9. Fields along Highway 81 Bypass Road showing heavy fuel loads.**



**Figure 10. Heavy fuels adjacent to structure in Water Canyon Subdivision.**

## Fire, Structural, and Community Assessments for Burley/North Cassia FPD

The following is a summary of the Fire Hazard Assessment for Burley/North Cassia FPD. Table 13. shows the complete results. Overall, the subdivisions in this FPD received a Class A (low) fire hazard assessment rating for 169 out of 258 elements (66%), a Class B (medium) rating for 92 out of 258 elements (36%) and a Class C (high) rating (1%) for 2 out of 258 elements.

**Vegetation Type** – Lawns are the primary carrier of any ignition to the wildland-urban interface.

**Slope** – Most slopes within the assessment area are less than 10%.

**Aspect** – The majority of the structures within the assessment area face east.

**Elevation** – The elevation within the assessment area averages is between 3500-5500 feet.

**Fuel Type** – The majority of fuel types within the assessment area is small, light fuels (grass, weeds and shrubs).

**Fuel Density** – The majority of fuel density within the assessment area is non-continuous fuel bed with grass and/or sparse fuels adjacent to federal land less than 30% cover.

**Fuel Bed Depth** – The majority fuel bed depth with the assessment area averages less than 1 foot.

**Table 13. Fire Hazard Assessment for Burley/North Cassia FPD**

Subdivision/Parcels	Vegetation Type	Rating Elements					
		Slope	Aspect	Elevation	Fuel Type	Fuel Density	Fuel Bed Depth
Verde Valley**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	B	B
Hernandez**	Lawns	A	B	B	B	C	B
Starr's Ferry**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Star Park**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Royal Star**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Carefree Estates**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Lemaire Estates**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Harris**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Macadam Ind. Park**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	B	A

Riverview**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Sylvan Acres**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Bielene Park**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Sandy Glen**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Starting Gates**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Starting Gates # 2**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Birch Acres**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Watterson Estates**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Country Hills**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
VIP Estates**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Southern View Ranchettes**	Lawns	A	C	B	A	A	A
Paradise**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
E-Z Acres**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Vista Village**	Lawns	A	A	B	A	A	A
Grandview**	Lawns	B	A	B	B	A	A
Bill Rehn**	Lawns	A	A	B	A	A	A
Del Rio**	Lawns	A	A	B	A	A	A
Unity Farms**	Lawns	A	A	B	B	A	A
Yulara Estates**	Lawns	A	A	B	A	A	A
View**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Springdale Acres**	Lawns	A	A	B	A	A	A
Riverside**	Lawns	A	A	B	A	A	A
River Heights**	Lawns	B	A	B	A	A	A

Moan's Place**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Kossman**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Christiansen Acres**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Spring Creek**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Berlin Estates West**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Kelsey**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Water Canyon Heights	Sagebrush/grass	B	A	B	B	B	B
Village of Trees (KOA)**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Turner River View Estates**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Declo**	Lawns	A	B	B	A	A	A
Six S Ranch Rd.	Sagebrush/grass	B	A	B	A/B	B	B

A=Class A low fire hazard assessment rating

B=Class B medium fire hazard assessment rating

C=Class C high fire hazard assessment rating

\* No structures yet

\*\* Not close to Federal lands

The following is a summary of the Structural Hazard Assessment for Burley/North Cassia FPD. Table 14 shows the complete results. Overall, the subdivisions received a Class A (low) fire hazard assessment rating for 170 out of 301 elements (56%), a Class B (medium) for 87 out of 301 elements (29%), and a Class C (high) for 44 out of 301 elements (15%).

**Structure Density** – The structure density within the assessment area is at least one structure per 0-5 acres.

**Proximity to Fuels** – Structures within the assessment area and adjacent to the wildland-urban interface are 40-100 feet to flammable fuels.

**Building Materials** – The majority of structures have fire resistant roofs and/or siding.

**Survivable Space** – The majority of structures within the assessment area have improved survivable space around the property.

**Roads** – Roads within the assessment area are maintained, with some narrow, two –lane roads with no shoulders.

**Response Time** – Response time to the assessment area is 20 minutes or less.

**Access** – Access to assessment area is narrow, dead-end roads or 1 way in, 1 way out and with steep grades.

**Table 14. Structural Hazard Assessment for Burley/North Cassia FPD**

Subdivision/Parcels	Rating Elements						
	Structure Density	Proximity of Fuels	Building Materials	Survivable Space	Roads	Response Time	Access
VerdeValley	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Hernandez	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Starr's Ferry	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Star Park	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Royal Star	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Carefree Estates	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Lemaire Estates	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Harris	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Macadam Ind. Park	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Riverview	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Sylvan Acres	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Bielene	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Sandy Glen	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Starting Gate	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Starting Gate #2	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Birch Acres	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Watterson Estates	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Country Hills	A	B	A	A	B	A	C

VIP Estates	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Southern View Ranchettes	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Paradise	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
E-Z Acres	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Vista Village	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Grandview	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Bill Rehn	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Del Rio	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Unity Farms	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Yulara Estates	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
View	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Springdale Acres	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Riverside	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
River Heights	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Moan's Place	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Kossmann	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Christensen Acres	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Spring Creek	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Berlin EstatesWest	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Kelsey	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Water Canyon Heights	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Village of Trees (KOA)	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Turner Riverview Estates	A	B	A	A	B	A	C
Declo	A	B	A	A	B	A	B

Six S Ranch Rd.	A	B	A	B	C	B	C
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A=Class A low fire hazard assessment rating

B=Class B medium fire hazard assessment rating

C=Class C high fire hazard assessment rating

Table 15 summarizes the Community Assessment for Burley/North Cassia FPD.

**Table 15. Community Assessment Summary for Burley/North Cassia FPD**

Rating Element	Class A	Class B	Class C	Rating (A, B, or C)
<b>Community Description</b>	There is a clear line where residential business, and public structures meet wildland fuels. Wildland fuels do not generally continue into the developed area.	There is no clear line of demarcation; wildland fuels are continuous outside of and within the developed area.	The community generally exists where homes, ranches, and other structures are scattered but adjacent to wildland vegetation.	A
<b>Response Time</b>	Prompt response time to interface areas (20 min or less).	Moderate response time to interface area (20-40 minutes).	Lengthy response time to interface area (40+ minutes).	B
<b>Firefighting Capability</b>	Adequate structural fire department. Sufficient personnel, equipment, and wildland firefighting capability and experience.	Inadequate fire department. Limited personnel, and or equipment but with some wildland firefighting experience and training.	Fire department non-existent or untrained and/or equipped to fight wildland fire.	A
<b>Water Supply</b>	Adequate supply of fire hydrants and pressure, and/or open water sources (pools, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, etc.).	Inadequate supply of fire hydrants, or limited pressure. Limited water supply.	No pressure water system available near interface. No surface water available.	B
<b>Local Emergency Operations Group (EOG)</b>	Active EOG. Evacuation plan in place.	Limited participation in EOG. Have some form of evacuation process.	No EOG. No evacuation plan in place.	B
<b>Structure Density</b>	At least one structure per 0-5 acres.	On structure per 5-10 acres.	Less than one structure per 10 acres.	A
<b>Community Planning Practices</b>	County/local laws and zoning ordinances require use of fire safe residential design and adequate ingress/egress of fire	Local officials have an understanding of appropriate community planning practices for wildfire loss mitigation. Fire	Community standards for fire safe development and protection are marginal or non-existent. Little or no effort has been made	A



	suppression resources. Fire Department actively participates in planning process.	department has limited input to fire safe development and planning efforts.	in assessing and applying measures to reduce wildfire impact.	
<b>Fire Mitigation Ordinances, Laws, or Regulations in Place</b>	Have adopted local ordinances or codes requiring fire safe landscaping, building and planning. Fire Department actively participates in planning process.	Have voluntary ordinances or codes requiring fire safe landscaping and building practices. Fire Department practices in planning process.	No local codes, laws or ordinances requiring fire safe building landscaping or planning processes.	A
<b>Fire Department Equipment</b>	Good supply of structure and wildland fire apparatus and miscellaneous specialty equipment.	Smaller supply of fire apparatus in fairly good repair with some specialty equipment.	Minimum amount of fire apparatus, which is old and in need of repair. None or little specialty equipment.	A
<b>Fire Department Training and Experience</b>	Large, fully paid fire department with personnel that meet NFPA or NWCG training requirements, are experienced in wildland fire, and have adequate equipment.	Mixed fire department. Some paid and some volunteer personnel. Limited experience, training and equipment to fight wildland fire.	Small, all volunteer fire department. Limited training, experience and budget with regular turnover of personnel. Do not meet NFPA or NWCG standards.	B
<b>Community Fire Safe Efforts and programs already in place</b>	Organized and active groups (Fire Dept.) providing educational materials and programs for their community.	Limited interest and participation in educational programs. Fire Department does some prevention and public education.	No interest of participation in educational programs. No prevention/education efforts by fire department.	A
<b>Community support and attitudes</b>	Actively supports urban interface plans and actions.	Some participation in urban interface plans and actions.	Opposes urban interface plans and efforts.	B